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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3198
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 1490
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE 2840
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE 6534
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE 0524
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNS/COMSOPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS MANILA 004151

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE, SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP, SCA, PM, S/CT, AND EAP/MTS
USPACOM ALSO FOR JIATF-WEST AND FPA HUSO
JOINT STAFF J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON/CLEMMONS)
DOD FOR ASD/SOLIC (NADANER)
DOD ALSO FOR OSD/ISA/AP (LAWLESS/TOOLAN/BAILEY)

E.O. 12958:N/A

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL MARITIME SECURITY 1206 PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH AND
SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. (SBU) SUMMARY. Chiefs of Mission from Manila, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Colombo fully support the regional maritime security proposal to be submitted by U.S Pacific Command (PACOM) under the FY07 authority granted by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006. The proposal -- the product of active coordination among our regional missions -- enhances maritime security in the waters stretching from the Philippines to the Indian Ocean. In a prioritized package of programs ranging from a threshold level of about \$50 million to a total of \$120 million, the proposal increases host nation capabilities to monitor ocean going traffic, builds their capacity to interdict suspect traffic, and enhances their ability to communicate with each other and with the United States. Building on successful 1206 submissions from FY06, this proposal enhances foreign military capacity to combat terrorism in the triangle surrounding the Sulu and Celebes Seas, protect shipping in the Strait of Malacca, and safeguard the Andaman Sea. By giving host nations an ability to operate multi-nationally, it supports other key counter terrorism programs and is in accord with the President's National Implementation Plan. END SUMMARY.

A REGIONAL PROPOSAL AFFECTING THREE KEY AREAS

2. (SBU) DOD and DOS officials from the U.S. Embassies in the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, in collaboration with U.S. PACOM, have developed a regional 1206 proposal designed to give host nations tools to counter threats posed by terrorists in South and Southeast Asia. The FY07 proposal builds on our efforts in FY06 which established a capacity to protect the Strait of Malacca and the Andaman Sea. The FY07 proposal focuses primarily on the archipelagic triangle enclosing the Sulu and Celebes Seas in the border region shared by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Chiefs of Mission recently designated this territory as our priority area of concern in South East Asia for the War on Terror. The FY07 proposal also provides funds (via Foreign Military Financing and other sources) to make operational the FY06 initiatives for Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka designed to safeguard the Andaman Sea and the Strait of Malacca.

PROVIDING THREE KEY CAPABILITIES

13. (SBU) The FY07 proposal is designed to enhance three basic capabilities of the host nations:

--Domain Awareness. Countries in the region have no clear idea of the volume or nature of the ship traffic in their waters. The proposal provides items such as maritime radars in Eastern Malaysia and Indonesia and equipment for coast watchers in the Philippines as well as enhanced observation equipment for patrol aircraft throughout the region to monitor suspect vessels carrying drugs, weapons or terrorists. These capabilities could be linked with capabilities already funded by 1206 to provide radar coverage of the Strait of Malacca, Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

--Interdiction. Countries in the region have only a limited ability to inspect and interdict suspect ships. The proposal would purchase small craft and upgrade ship-borne observation equipment for military forces in the region to board and inspect ships that might be carrying contraband.

--Communication. These countries only have a nascent ability to share intelligence and information between host-government military and police forces, with each other, or with the United States. This shortcoming makes it nearly impossible to track ships across maritime borders. The proposal sets up communication centers throughout the region which will be interoperable with existing U.S. networks and which can then be used to transfer data from the field, to national headquarters, to intercept vessels, and with neighboring countries.

14. (SBU) The regional 1206 proposal contains 23 projects, ranked in order of priority as agreed upon in consultations among the five missions. The proposal is presented as a prioritized package of programs, ranging from a threshold level of about \$50 million to a total of \$120 million. The missions have worked closely with host country officials to identify these projects and ensure host country endorsement.

BUILDS ON EXISTING PROGRAMS

15. (SBU) The proposal is designed to make maximum use of our existing exercise programs in the region as well as initiatives managed by other agencies. We have worked closely with PACOM, Special Operations Command Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, the Joint Interagency Task Force-West, and others to ensure that subject matter experts planning our exercise programs are well-versed in our 1206 efforts and will use our exercise program to assist host nations test and improve their new capabilities in real-life scenarios. This proposal will also assist the USG in on-going efforts aimed at having countries in the region think and act multilaterally to address common problems. We have designed our proposal to support other U.S. counterterrorism initiatives including those being formulated under the aegis of the Secretary of State's Office for Counterterrorism. For example, parts of the proposal to be implemented in the Philippines and Indonesia are designed to secure port facility and ferry terminals and mesh with the interagency effort under the Border Control Assessment Initiative in the tri-border area. Various aspects also dovetail with similar initiatives undertaken by other donor countries including Japan, Australia and India.

16. (SBU) The proposal envisions using other means, including Foreign Military Financing (FMF), beyond FY08 to fund necessary maintenance, training, and support for the equipment provided by 1206. We intend to include these as part of regular FMF submissions beginning in FY09 since FMF submissions for FY07 and FY08 were submitted prior to the existence of the 1206 program. We appreciate Washington's efforts to modify the 1206 funding authority to permit funding programs for police and other non-military units - doing so makes our proposal even more flexible as it would allow us to engage more effectively with units such as the Malaysian and Philippine Coast Guards and Maritime Police Forces. In Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia, non-military security forces play leading roles in counterterrorism and it is in our clear interest to include them in the 1206 initiatives.

STRATEGIC IN NATURE IN ACCORD WITH KEY U.S. OBJECTIVES

17. (SBU) Protecting the waters in South and South East Asia and stopping the terrorist groups operating there are vital U.S. interests. Assisting countries in the region to work together to counter threats is a long-term objective. The FY07 1206 proposal gives countries in the region capabilities they do not presently have to wage the War on Terror and affords the United States unique opportunities to influence the shape of a regional counter terrorism strategy. For these reasons, the U.S. missions in Bangkok, Colombo, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, and Manila strongly encourage Washington's funding support for the Southeast and South Asia FY07 1206 proposal.

KENNEY